

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Jef Wilson and I am a resident of Hamden, Connecticut.

I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

Although I am a native of Connecticut, I relocated back to Connecticut in 2018 from Canada due family separation difficulties. Even with an excellent resume that includes 12 years with Yale University, I encountered a job market not eager to hire me for what I am worth. So, I found my immediate need then for HUSKY health care to extend through to now. While the job marketplace in Connecticut has been stressful, as I continue to try to find my footing in Connecticut as a single parent, the stress *without* HUSKY would be unbearable.

When full-time employment proved to yield no results, I started my own business as a recording studio service: TalentCraft LLC, creating podcasts, audiobooks and music projects. Difficulties in maintaining this business require me to secure additional work.

I fortunately found part-time work with IRIS, coordinating elementary school refugee kids in our after-school program and tutors who volunteer for our organization. It is some of the most rewarding work I have been a part of. This work is also a daily reminder of refugee families in Connecticut who need HUSKY.

That all said, *I* still need HUSKY, and continue to be a very grateful patron. I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,

[Jef Wilson](#)